



Route 238 Working Group Meeting

July 28, 2004
Summary Notes

Committee Members

Bob Billmire
Seth Kaplan
Audrey LePell
Sherman Lewis

City Representatives

Roberta Cooper - Mayor
Jesús Armas - City Manager
Dennis Butler - Director of Public Works
Robert Bauman - Deputy Director of Public Works

Others

Bill Quirk
Evelyn Cormier
Ken Price
Bob Preston
Christine Monsen
Art Dao

Items Discussed:

Public Comments:

A member of the audience asked why the City is acquiring properties and in return bringing additional traffic to the City streets.

Joanne Camara, from I.D.E.S., noted that at a previous meeting with City staff, there were a number of options for the Portuguese Park. However, now there is only one alternative, which meant the Portuguese Park would be demolished without a replacement. Mr. Armas clarified that the proposal would include an acceptable replacement location for the Portuguese Park.

Approval of Summary Notes – June 23, 2004 Meeting

Mr. Billmire asked that the word "Change" be correctly replaced by "Charge" on second paragraph of the second page.

Mr. Kaplan wanted to clarify his comments, which should reflect that a number of people were against the project and some were not clear about the scope of the project.

Modified Route 238 Corridor Improvement Project

Mr. Armas opened the discussion and talked about the public meeting held on June 16, 2004. He noted a large number of public attended the meeting. Before the presentation of the Modified Project, Mr. Armas discussed issues with the Route 238 Bypass project and reported Caltrans has recently decided to no longer pursue the Bypass project nor appeal the court decision to the State's Supreme Court.

He then discussed the following proposal to be recommended to the City Council:

- 1) Submit the Modified Route 238 Corridor Project as replacement for the Rt 238 Bypass Project in regional programming documents,
- 2) Pursue in conjunction with ACTA and the County steps to reserve the \$16.8 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding presently allocated for the I-580/Rt 238 Bypass connectors for extension of the Strobbridge I-580 off ramp to

Castro Valley Boulevard in order to minimize cut through traffic on County residential areas and to allocate any remaining funds to the I-580/Redwood Road Interchange project, and

- 3) Pursue funding for a study of demand and financial viability for a Bus Rapid Transit type service between CSUH and BART.

Mr. Armas introduced the Route 238 Modified Project by noting the improvements consisted of the grade separation, widening of Foothill from the grade separation north to City Center (south), and intersection widening at Carlos Bee and Mission. Ms. LePell said that she had read the report for the Modified Project and was very appreciative of the efforts. She also asked what the next steps would be. Mr. Armas said staff would present the Modified Project to the City Council in September. He noted if the Council finds it appropriate and agrees to continue, a formal recommendation would be submitted to ACTA. Mr. Armas said, for the sake of time, he had asked Mr. Jimmy Sims to not get into too much technical detail in his presentation of the Modified Project.

Mr. Sims began the review of the Modified Project by describing the improvements along the corridor and pointing out the major differences with the Project. Ms. LePell asked if it would be appropriate to include a pedestrian bridge in the vicinity of downtown. Mr. Armas noted that staff has looked at that and the Modified Project cost estimate does include a pedestrian bridge with a location to be determined in the future. Mr. Lewis asked if by re-grading E Street we could provide access to it from Mission. Mr. Sims said that would create an unsafe condition. Mr. Butler noted in order to have a proper access, a dedicated lane will be needed, which would require property take from the St. Regis.

After completing the corridor improvement presentation for the Modified Project, Mr. Sims discussed the right of way parcel acquisitions. Mr. Armas pointed out the significant reduction in number of parcel acquisitions in comparison with the original Project. The original Project required 133 total takes vs. the Modified Project requiring 67 total takes. Mr. Sims then talked about the cost summary, including cost comparison between the Project and the Modified Project. He noted the Modified Project is estimated to cost \$155 million, compared to the original Project costing \$215 million.

Mr. Sims then reviewed the proposal for a bike route on Foothill from Hazel to Sybil on Jackson, noting that wherever right of way was being acquired 15 foot curb lanes would be provided to add to the city's designated bicycle network. Mr. Billmire asked about bicyclists on Mission, north and south of the grade separation and asked staff to review viability of a bike route there. With regard to Mission Boulevard, Mr. Lewis said it would be better to provide 15-foot lanes, as oppose to currently proposed 13-foot lanes, to better accommodate bicyclists. He thought this could be achieved by reducing the median and sidewalk widths. Mr. Armas said staff would study that within the Rt. 238 corridor.

Comments by Working Group Members

Mr. Armas asked if the members wanted to have another meeting to further discuss the Modified Project before presentation to the City Council. The group responded positively and it was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for September 15.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.